

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application. Claims 1-5 and 26-30 are pending. No claims have been amended or cancelled. Claims 69-77 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-5, 26-30, and 69-77 are now presented for examination.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Van Brunt, et al.

Claims 1-5 and 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102, as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,485,488 of Van Brunt, et al. ("Van Brunt").

Claims 1 and 26 read as follows:

1. A method comprising:
connecting a transmitter to a transmission line;
receiving an input signal; and
transmitting the input signal on the transmission line by switching
between a first power source and a second power source to
generate a balanced current signal
26. A transmitter comprising:
a connection to a transmission line;
a plurality of power sources; and
a switch, wherein the switch is coupled to the plurality of power
sources and wherein the switch generates a balanced
current signal by switching between the plurality of power
sources.

Claims 1 and 26 therefore provide for the generation of a *current signal*. It is respectfully submitted that Van Brunt does not concern communication utilizing current signals and thus does not anticipate the claims herein.

Van Brunt concerns signaling using voltage differences, a different type of communication. For example, the summary provides that “The present invention includes a transmission circuit that may operate in a differential signal mode and in a common mode signal mode simultaneously both utilizing a twisted pair cable. Data may be transmitted on the twisted pair at small differential signals. Information regarding the signal speed between two coupled units may be simultaneously transmitted using variations in the common mode voltage over the twisted pair.” (Van Brunt, col. 2, lines 20-25) Describing the operation of the circuit shown in Figure 4, Van Brunt provides:

During differential signal transmission, transmitter 200 is capable of sending a low voltage signal (indicative of a 0 data bit) or a high voltage signal (indicative of a 1 data bit) and also capable of transmitting a null voltage signal (Z) which is zero volts. Transmitter 200 is capable of transmitting in a common mode wherein the voltages over line 370 and 375 are both reduced by a predetermined amount, thus indicative of speed signal information. In an alternative embodiment, the speed signal common mode may increase the twisted pair common mode voltage.

(Van Brunt, col. 7, lines 28-37)

Van Brunt does illustrate current sources, but such current sources are used to create the voltage signals. For example, see the discussion of the current sources and transistors in Figure 4 on column 7, line 57 through column 8, line 29.

The operation of the system described in Van Brunt may also be shown by examining the reception of transmitted signals. Van Brunt does not discuss *current detection* to detect the transmission of signals, but rather the *detection of voltages*. With regard to transmission and reception of the signals shown in Figure 5, Van Brunt provides “A receiver unit 205 may monitor the common mode voltage across cable 220 and will be able to detect the speed signal by the common mode voltage variations

between segment 910, segment 920 and segment 930.” (Van Brunt, col. 9, lines 32-35) Further, in Figure 3 of Van Brunt receivers 210 and 210’ and common mode voltage detection circuit 205 are arranged to detect the voltages across certain loads.

Therefore, Van Brunt does not teach or suggest the generation of current signals, and does not anticipate the elements of claims 1 and 26.

In addition to other independent reasons for allowance, the remaining claims are dependent on either claim 1 or claim 26 and thus are allowable as being dependent on the allowable base claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 7, 31 and 32 are objected to as being independent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 69-77 have been added as follows:

Independent claim 69 contains the subject matter of allowable claim 7 and intervening claims 1 and 5. Claim 73 contains the subject matter of allowable claim 7. Claims 70-72 contain the subject matter of examined dependent claims 2-4.

Independent claim 74 contains the subject matter of allowable claim 31 and intervening claims 26, 29, and 30. Claim 77 contains the subject matter of allowable claim 31. Claims 75 and 76 contain the subject matter of examined dependent claims 27 and 28.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the Amendment and Remark, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the objections and rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for a one-month extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). A check in the amount of \$110.00 is enclosed to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

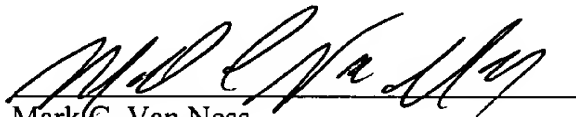
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 9/16/03


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